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**JACK ANDERSON**

# Agency Turf Fight Jeopardized Spy Trial

Two years ago, a 23-year-old CIA employe named William Kampiles stunned the spy agency by confessing that he had sold top-secret technical manuals to Soviet agents while he was stationed in Greece.

The Kampiles espionage trial was a shocking case. As a former CIA official said, it "raises the question of whether or not there has been infiltration of the United States' intelligence community or government at a significant level."

The young traitor, who was paid a measly \$3,000 for turning the documents over to Kremlin agents, was found guilty. But what has been unreported so far is that bureaucrats in the intelligence community jeopardized Kampiles' landmark trial by engaging in petty turf wrangles.

Internal Justice Department documents reviewed by my associate Jack Mitchell reveal that Defense Department lawyers waged a covert guerrilla war to have several of the charges against Kampiles dropped, supposedly so that security information would not be revealed at his trial. The Pentagon's fears were baseless, however.

Accounts of several closed-door meetings among high-ranking officials of the CIA, Justice Department and Pentagon disclose that the military lawyers almost succeeded in clouding the Kampiles prosecution. They offered what the Justice Department

called "ill-conceived suggestions" on how "security" disclosures could be stifled at Kampiles' trial.

At one point, Pentagon attorneys recommended that three of the six counts against Kampiles be dropped, and that his trial be closed to the press and the public. But then Attorney General Griffin B. Bell, according to one Justice document, "was informed that DOD [the Department of Defense] was exerting extreme pressure, and he affirmed that Justice, not DOD, was in charge of the case."

Overruled by Bell, the Pentagon refused to give up. Then-general counsel Deanne Siemer made a "vindictive personal attack" on the professionalism of Justice officials, according to the report. She also reportedly had harsh words for a witness who proved to be invaluable to the prosecution of Kampiles.

When Siemer finished, her deputy, Richard Stone, took up the cudgel. According to the Justice report, Stone complained loudly about an "unnecessary breach of security" at the Kampiles trial. It involved the disclosure of a top-secret code word. But, the Justice report noted with ill-concealed disgust, the CIA had already given official permission to reveal the word.

In addition to heat from the Pentagon, the Justice prosecutors were also catching it from the CIA, according to the report. The spooks argued that there was no way Kampiles' con-

fession could be corroborated. But the Justice document noted that if this view, put by the CIA's general counsel, had prevailed, "the case would never have gone forward at all."

The Justice Department document concluded that if the Pentagon lawyers had "prevailed in this sensitive prosecution... the facts would have been distorted, if not misrepresented, with an attendant loss of the government's credibility with the court."

In any event, of course, the Justice Department was proven right. Kampiles was not only convicted, but also the appeals court upheld the department's handling of the case.

Footnote: Stone, now in private practice, admitted there was "severe institutional tension" over the handling of "extremely sensitive national security information." Justice Department lawyers, he said, had a "different perspective" but he "never viewed it as personal."